

once severed his connection with the Dorchester National Bank and entered upon the practice of law in his native town of Cambridge, where he soon built up a large and lucrative practice. While so engaged he was appointed a Special Commissioner to visit Valparaiso, Chile, and there take the testimony of witnesses for use in the trial of an important case then pending in the Maryland Courts, which suit involved the settlement of a large estate, a valuable part of which consisted of real estate situated in Chile. Mr. Simmons' mission to South America was successful and the desired testimony was obtained by him for use in the Maryland Courts, as a result of which the litigation, which was pending, was speedily concluded. After practicing law successfully in the Courts of Maryland for twelve years, Mr. Simmons, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-four, removed to New York City, where he successfully engaged in the banking business, first with N. W. Harris & Co. and later with Berton, Griscom & Co. Still later Mr. Simmons became a partner in the New York Stock Exchange firm of C. E. Wells & Co., which latter firm was shortly thereafter dissolved by the sudden death of the senior partner, after which Mr. Simmons returned to his native town of Cambridge, and there resumed the practice of law.

Although hitherto, he had never engaged actively in politics, and never sought or held public office, when, in the campaign of 1915, his life-long friend, Emerson C. Harrington, became a candidate for Governor of Maryland, Mr. Simmons at once took an active and most earnest interest in Mr. Harrington's candidacy, and made the nomination speech, presenting his name to the Democratic State Convention which met in Baltimore in September, 1915. During the ensuing Gubernatorial campaign he worked earnestly for Mr. Harrington's election, which was attained in November, 1915.

On the inauguration of Governor Harrington, January 12, 1916, he appointed Mr. Simmons Secretary of State, ever since which time the latter has devoted his entire time to the duties of his office.

In 1893 Mr. Simmons married Miss Laura Fletcher, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Fletcher, of Cambridge, Md., and sister of Mr. Frederick H. Fletcher, a well known member of the Maryland Bar. Mrs. Simmons' father was for many years Register of Wills for Dorchester County.